Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 16636 311640Z ACTION STR-07

R 311636Z AUG 78 FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8543 INFO ALL EC CAPITALS AMEMBASSY BANGKOK USMISSION GENEVA

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USEEC

DEPT PASS STR AND AGRICULTURE. GENEVA FOR MTN

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: EEC, AGR, MTN

SUBJECT: MANIOC AND THE EEC

REF: BRUSSELS 15894

- 1. AMBASSADOR SARASIN OF THAILAND CALLED AUGUST 31 AT HIS REQUEST TO DISCUSS THAILAND'S GROWING CONCERN OVER INDICATIONS THAT THE COMMISSION AND THE COMMUNITY MIGHT MOVE TO RESTRICT THAILAND'S MANIOC EXPORTS TO THE EC. HE EXPLICITLY ASKED FOR US SUPPORT AND I SAID I WOULD REFER THE QUESTION TO WASHINGTON.
- 2. HIS GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT PRESSURES GENERATED IN THE FIRST INSTANCE BY THE FRENCH FOR RESTRICTION OF MANIOC AND OTHER FEED GRAIN SUBSTITUTES TO THE COMMUNITY CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 BRUSSE 16636 311640Z

MARKET IS COMPATIBLE WITH WHAT THIS MISSION AND OTHER EUROPEAN POSTS HAVE BEEN REPORTING. HE BELIEVES, HOWEVER, THAT GUNDELACH HAS MADE A DECISION TO SUPPORT LEVY INCREASES ON AT LEAST SOME US EXPORTS AND HE FEARS THAT GUNDELACH HAS TOLD THE FRENCH HE WILL RECOMMEND NEGOTIATION OF A RESTRAINT AGREEMENT WITH THAILAND ON MANIOC AT ABOUT THE LEVEL OF FOUR MILLION TONS A YEAR.

- 3. HE WILL DELIVER LETTER FROM HIS PRIME MINISTER TO COMMISSION PRESIDENT JENKINS AS SOON AS HE CAN GET AN APPOINTMENT AND HIS GOVERNMENT WILL TRY TO PERSUADE FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER DE GUIRINGAUD TO EASE UP DURING DE GUIRINGUARD'S SCHEDULED VISIT TO BANGKOK IN EARLY SEPTEMBER. HE SAYS THAI AMBASSADORS ARE ACTIVE THROUGHOUT THE COMMUNITY ON THE SUBJECT AND THAT THE ASEAN MEMBER STATES ARE ALSO ACTIVELY OPPOSED TO ESTRICTIONS.
- 4. COMMENT: SINCE WE HAVE SO MANY AGRICULTURAL PROBLEMS OF OUR OWN I DO NOT THINK THAT WE SHOULD INTERVENE SPECIFICALLY WITH RESPECT TO MANIOC BUT I WOULD URGE THAT IN ANY REPRESENTATIONS WE MAY MAKE ABOUT FEED GRAIN SUBSTITUTES PROBLEM (IN REFTEL I RECOMMENDED SUCH ACTION) WE INCLUDE A GENERAL POINT THAT THE CLOSING MONTHS OF THE TOKYO ROUND IS NOT THE TIME FOR THE COMMUNITY TO BE TAKING ANY SORT OF NEW AGRICULTURAL PROTECTIONIST ACTION, IMPLICITLY INCLUDING RESTRICTIVE ACTION ON MANIOC. HINTON

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